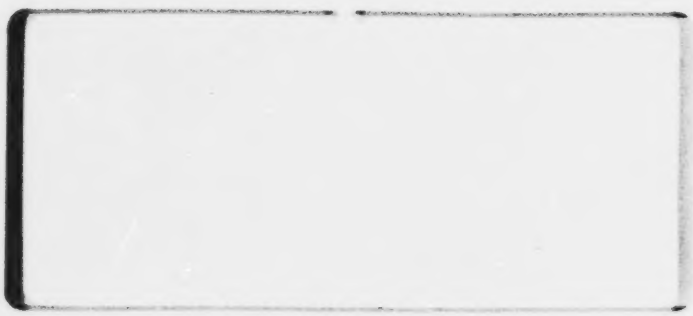

Manitoba
Environment and
Workplace Safety
and Health

MG-13339

Ministerial
Consultation Meetings

November, 1985

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INTRODUCTION

Since September 1983, the Minister of Environment and Workplace Safety and Health has hosted annual consultation meetings with groups representing labour, industry, business, the medical profession, environmental groups and various other interests.

The consultation meetings are designed for open and honest discussion about the department's policies and programs. These discussions have assisted in the planning of departmental programs and in maximizing their effectiveness.

In 1985, five meetings were held between Wednesday, November 20 and Saturday, November 23 in the Cabinet Room at the Legislative Building in Winnipeg. During this round of consultation meetings, a wide variety of issues were discussed and a number of concerns were raised.

Although questions and concerns are usually addressed at the meetings, some issues require additional research. This final report is intended as a follow-up to issues raised at the meetings. Issues are divided by subject area under the main divisions of the department.

To assist in preparation of future consultations, participants were asked to complete a meeting evaluation questionnaire. The questionnaire addressed timing and location of meetings as well as their duration and content. A summary and interpretation of responses is included in this report.

The report also contains the text of speaking notes by the Honourable Gerard Lecuyer.

The department's annual meetings are just one facet of its ongoing consultation program. The department also routinely holds public consultations on all new programs, legislation and regulations.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

1985 MINISTERIAL

CONSULTATION MEETINGS

FOR THE

HONOURABLE GERARD LECUYER, MINISTER

MANITOBA ENVIRONMENT AND WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH

FOR CONSULTATION MEETINGS:

#1 - 7:30 p.m., Wednesday

November 20, 1985

#3 - 9:30 a.m., Friday

November 22, 1985

#5 - 12:30 p.m., Saturday

November 23, 1985

I would like to welcome you today.

As you are aware, our department conducts these general consultation meetings on an annual basis. This is the third year we have held these meetings and they have proved to be extremely beneficial from our point of view. Many of the suggestions emanating from these meetings have resulted in program improvements and increased efficiency in services.

Just prior to opening up the meeting to your questions, I wanted to share with you some information about some ongoing and new departmental initiatives.

Since we met last year, our government has undertaken a number of new initiatives in the area of workplace safety and health and workers compensation. If I may, I would just like to take a few minutes to discuss them.

For example, since the beginning of the new fiscal year, a number of new positions have been added to the Workplace Safety and Health Division. We have added staff in the Education Section, Safety and Health Inspectorate, Occupational Health Services and clerical support. A substantial increase in public demand as well as the various amendments to the Act has resulted in the need to expand our staff complement.

Also, since we met last year, a very successful safety and health training program was carried out in conjunction with the Manitoba Federation of Labour and the Manitoba Government Employees' Association. As you may be aware, 36 union members from various parts of the Province were given a very comprehensive six week training session to become safety and health instructors. The union representatives completed the progam in June. Since then, they have returned to their places of employment to coordinate training programs.

Also, I would like to give you a brief update on our safety and health committee development program. To date, we now have roughly 850 functioning safety and health committees in the Province. We anticipated that this number will grow by several hundred as our staff follow through with their education and developmental efforts.

Another area that has consumed a fair amount of resources over the past year has been the new "Hearing Conservation and Noise Control Regulation". As you are probably aware, this new regulation came into effect last Monday (November 18, 1985). The new regulation requires most Manitoba workplaces to initiate special measures to protect workers from the effects of excessive exposure to noise. As you know, the regulation establishes 90 decibels as the maximum allowable daily sound exposure level, averaged over an eight hour work day. Employers are required to reduce worker exposure to the 90 dBA limit through engineering and work practice controls. Personal hearing protection is to be used only as a last resort.

Another effort we are just initiating is a major review of occupational health services in the Province. The study is being coordinated by an Advisory Committee which consists of six members: a doctor, lawyer, an industrial hygienist, a representative each from labour and management, and a representative from the Workplace Safety and Health Advisory Council. A Study Director has already been hired for the program and efforts are already well underway. As Minister, I am looking forward to seeing the results of this study as our government moves to develop a more complete and comprehensive occupational health service for workers.

We have also spent a fair amount of energy over the last number of months in attempting to finalize our draft of the Workplace Health Regulation. The second draft of the regulation went out for public consultation in July and it is my hope to take the regulation to Cabinet for consideration early in the new year.

It has also been a busy year for the Worker Advisor Office. In January, our government initiated a $325,000 on-the-job training program. The program was sponsored by the Jobs Fund and carried out in cooperation with the Manitoba Federation of Labour and the Manitoba Government Employee's Association. The program was designed to assist union members in developing an expertise in Workers Compensation as well as aid the Worker Advisor Office in clearing up a heavy backlog of compensation cases. The Worker Advisor Office was also active over the last year with its education and outreach activities.

In the area of Workers Compensation--no doubt you are aware that we have undertaken a complete review of the Workers Compensation Act.

Ideally, we had targeted the review to begin last year, but as you know, we are faced with numerous recommendations for improving Workers Compensation which are contained in the Lampe, Cooper, Cereco and Section 100 Committee Reports.

Before commencing with a review of the Act, we felt it was imperative to address as many of these detailed recommendations as possible.

Now that the majority of these recommendations are in place, we are in a position to proceed with a comprehensive review of the Workers Compensation Act.

We appointed a three-person committee to undertake the review. The committee chairperson is Brian King, former Chairperson of the Saskatchewan Workers Compensation Board. The other members are Lissa Donner, Executive Director of the Manitoba Federation of Labour Occupational Health Centre, and Tom Farrell, Superintendent of Safety and Protection for Inco Ltd. of Thompson.

The Act has not been reviewed since 1957, and for decades has been revised and reformed by introducing legislative amendments on a piecemeal basis. A complete review of the Act will ensure that the Workers Compensation system will provide fair and just legislation for injured workers, as well as equitable and consistent legislation for employers.

You will find the committee's terms of reference on the display table. And as you will see, it has been mandated to review the entire 100 sections and dozens of subsections of the Act, as well as board policies.

Accordingly, any and all issues of concern in the compensation system may be addressed when you make presentations to the committee.

The committee is currently in the early stages of getting its work underway.

I understand they hope to start holding public hearings by March. They will be conducting hearings throughout the Province.

Just prior to closing, I wanted to mention our plans to develop a long term strategic plan for our department. Over the last couple of years, we have been concentrating more and more of our efforts on the prevention of problems. Needless to say, anticipating and preventing problems is the best course of action. With this in mind, we have just started the process of preparing a long term strategic plan for our department. Once we have a first draft of that plan, we will be asking for your comments.

With that, I would now like to open this up to your questions and comments.

* * *

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

1985 MINISTERIAL

CONSULTATION MEETINGS

FOR THE

HONOURABLE GERARD LECUYER, MINISTER

MANITOBA ENVIRONMENT AND WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH

FOR CONSULTATION MEETINGS:

#2 - 7:30 p.m., Thursday

November 21, 1985

#4 - 1:30 p.m., Friday

November 22, 1985

I would like to welcome you today.

As you are aware, our department conducts these general consultation meetings on an annual basis. This is the third year we have held these meetings and they have proved to be extremely beneficial from our point of view. Many of the suggestions emanating from these meetings have resulted in program improvements and increased efficiency in services.

Just prior to opening up the meeting to your questions, I wanted to share with you some information about some ongoing and new departmental initiatives.

Despite the fact that we have been operating under a period of restraint, we have made some modest advances in our environmental protection programs. If I may, I would like to take a new minutes to discuss them.

For example, our acid rain program is proceeding well. Our government has been active in the development of a national strategy for acid precipitation. As part of this national effort, our government has made a commitment to reduce the sulphur dioxide emissions in Manitoba to 500 kilotonnes a year by 1994. This is Manitoba's portion of the overall 50% reduction in Canada. Over the last few months, we have been working with both Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting and Inco to develop effective methods to meet the required reductions.

Our Hazardous Waste Program is proceeding well despite the fact that we had to postpone the planned public hearings until next year. The hearings had to be postponed due to a number of requests from groups and organizations wishing more time as well as additional information to assist them in preparing their briefs for the hearings.

During the interim period, our department will be doing some more indepth studies regarding cost projections and risk analysis.

I would also like to mention that the government is participating in a Western Canada feasibility study into the establishment of mobile incinerator for PCB's and other organic wastes. This study is currently underway and we anticipate that we will be incorporating its results into our department's presentation at the Clean Environment Commission hearings.

As you are probably aware, in August, our department released a detailed report on the extent of the hazardous waste problem in Manitoba. The report outlines five options for managing the more than 20,000 tonnes of hazardous wastes produced each year in the Province. The report has been circulated widely and it will form the basis for the hearings in the new year.

I would also like to point out that over the last year, our Hazardous Waste and Dangerous Goods Section has been busy with a number of regulations. Two regulations were adopted under the Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act and a number of other regulations are under development.

Another area I would like to touch upon is the department's Pesticide Use Permit Regulation. As you may remember, the new regulation was adopted in the spring of this year. The regulation is intended to improve the safe handling and use of pesticides, especially in areas where the public has direct access. As part of the program, pesticide users are required to apply to the department for an annual permit prior to proceeding with spraying programs. This new regulation will enable the department to keep track of the number, nature and type of pest control programs being carried out in areas where the public has access.

Another priority for the department has been in the area of recycling. We are just in the process of hiring a recycling coordinator. One of the main activities of this new coordinator will be to implement a comprehensive beverage container recycling program for the Province. The coordinator will also be responsible for developing methods to encourage recycling activities in both the private and public sectors.

With that, I would now like to open this up to your questions and comments.

* * *

ENVIRONMENT

ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Is the Department aware of the implications of genetic and biological research?

Our Director of Planning, Research and Evaluation is reviewing the situation to see if we have any problem in Manitoba with regard to the issue of biotechnology. The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act covers by-products of genetic engineering as dangerous goods.

Can the Department do more to look at the economics of environmental protection - i.e. environmental debt?

It is becoming widely recognized that effective environmental protection is fundamental to the long term economic growth prospects of a jurisdiction. The department has held this view for sometime and has been working to incorporate it in the Province's overall provincial economic strategy. One recent example of a proposed designed to enhance both economic development and environmental protection is the $100 Million Red and Assiniboine Rivers Renewal Program.

Hydro development in the north, such as the Limestone and Conawapa generating stations, are a potential danger to brook trout. Are these species going to be allowed to die? How long is economic development going to continue at the cost of the fish?

The Environmental Management Division has discussed the situation with the Fisheries Branch of the Department of Natural Resources. It is our understanding that this issue would be addressed and ways to protect the specific fish resource would be recommended. This may include the construction of fish ladders to allow the passage of fish species. Manitoba Hydro is already looking at the environmental implications of the Conawapa project, even though its development is some time away.

We are concerned about the small budget allotted to environmental communications.

Last year, more money was put into Workplace Safety and Health issues because of the amendments to the Act. We have to work with limited funds and put them where they are most needed. We will continue to expand environmental information and communications as the budget allows.

Will Manitoba have input into the environmental studies being done concerning Hudson Bay oil and gas exploration?

Hudson Bay oil and gas exploration falls under the auspices of the Federal Government. Manitoba, however, will monitor the situation very closely.

Would it be possible to invite the U.N. Brundtland Commission to hold hearings in Manitoba.

The department will look into this possibility. We are, however, planning a presentation to the Commission in both Edmonton and Ottawa in late May 1986.

What is the Department doing to control problems of used pesticide containers, residues etc.?

The Department, in conjunction with the Manitoba Agricultural Pesticide Container Disposal Committee, has set up a program to inform and educate users of proper procedures for cleaning and rinsing used containers. The municipalities, in conjunction with their Weed Supervisors, arrange for puncturing, draining and crushing the cans at the various collection sites so material can be safely recycled and buried. Our Department has provided 200 L drums to collect any remaining residues and these are tendered annually for disposal.

Some concern about low-temperature incineration of plastic containers both in the field and at waste disposal grounds has arisen. The possibility of recycling plastic containers will be investigated by our Waste Management Section. Part of the responsibility of the Department's Recycling Coordinator will be to improve the recycling of pesticide containers.

In 1985, there were 103 collection sites in 50 different municipalities. There were approximately 185,000 cans collected and 78 barrels of residue collected for disposal.

A major problem with the use of pesticides is the lack of information on pesticides.

This problem has been discussed for a number of years at the annual Environment Ministers' meetings, Canadian Association of Pest Control Officials meetings and Workplace Safety and Health meetings. All sectors: Industry, Federal Agriculture etc. are attempting to address this problem. A major stumbling block continues to be laws of confidentiality, which prevent the release of formulation data. Industry is now recognizing the needs of provincial agencies and the wants of the public and are increasing their flow of pesticide data. They have agreed to produce pesticide monographs for all newly registered material and old products as they are reviewed under the federal registration system. This is also the first major issue to be addressed by the Pest Management Advisory Board appointed by the Federal Minister of Agriculture.

Will the pesticide permit program apply to nurseries, i.e. strawberry farms etc.?

The current regulation will not require agricultural producers such as pick your own or nurseries to obtain use-permits. The only private properties covered by this regulation are those to which the public normally has access for recreational purposes and includes such areas as golf courses, fair grounds, campgrounds and parks.

There is some confusion re parameters of pesticide permit regulation.

New permit applications have been prepared and a six page guideline with examples will be distributed to all affected parties early in 1986. Explanation meetings can and will be held whenever requested or deemed necessary.

Can Manitoba prevent U.S. pesticide containers from being disposed of at scrapyards in the Province?

We are not aware of any regulations to prevent U.S. containers from being recycled in the province. An informal agreement has been reached with management and safety officers of the Manitoba Rolling Mills at Selkirk that they would only accept pesticide pails which had been shredded prior to processing; thus eliminating any excessive pesticide residue which may represent a health risk to workers.

Will the new pesticide permit program cover the application of herbicides by forest industries?

Forest industries including private corporations such as Abitibi-Price will be required to obtain a pesticide use-permit for any application of chemical herbicides to Crown or provincially owned lands. If private forestry corporations are applying herbicides to lands which they own, then a use-permit will not be required. Any guidelines developed by the Herbicide Committee of Forestry will certainly be considered and used as part of the application conditions set out on the use-permit.

Is public involvement built into the pesticide permit process?

Yes, public involvement has been incorporated into the new Regulation. Applicants must give notification in one or more issues of a newspaper, or news bulletin that has general circulation in the community involved. The following information must be given in the advertisement:

i) the reason for the control program;
ii) the name of the pesticide(s) to be used;
iii) the approximate dates and time of the proposed uses;
iv) the appropriate areas to be treated with the pesticide; and
v) a statement that the public may send written submissions within 15 days of the publication of the notice to our Department (these comments will be considered prior to the issuance of a permit).

Is the Department concerned about the emission of dioxins when PCB's are destroyed by mobile incinerators?

Yes, we are concerned about the emission of dioxins with respect to incineration of PCB's. We are currently involved in a feasibility study to examine mobile incinerators and have indicated the need for analytical capability to examine dioxin emissions from these processes.

Is it true that the incineration of any chlorinated or organic compound produces dioxins and dibenzofurans?

No, this is not always the case. Dioxins and dibenzofurans are produced from the incomplete combustion of chlorinated organic compounds or from natural oxidation processes, i.e. open fires. It has been documented in the Advisory Committee on Dioxins to Canadian Council of Resource and Environment Ministers that dibenzofurans and dioxins are produced due to incomplete combustion from various incineration processes. This includes the incineration of municipal wastes. It should be noted, however, that there are many different types of dioxins and dibenzofurans which vary in complexity and toxicity.

What process is Hydro using to clean up low level PCB's?

The process being used by Hydro to recycle oil containing less than 1,000 ppm PCB's is the Sun Ohio process or better known as the PCBX process. The PCBX process is a chemical mechanism that will neutralize the PCB's in the mineral oil found in transformers rendering it reuseable as a non-PCB oil. Waste generated from this process are non-PCB in nature and can be landfilled.

The Education component of the Workplace Safety and Health Division is very large. What is the commitment to Education on the Environment side of the Department?

The commitment in Environment is the same and can be exemplified by the Dangerous Goods Program which involves a great deal of public education in the area of transport of dangerous goods as well as hazardous waste management.

Will generators of hazardous wastes have to register with the Department; dispose of wastes properly, and subject to fines? What will happen with companies who simply go out of business?

We are currently developing a regulation that will register the generators of hazardous waste in Manitoba. In the near future, we will proclaim those sections of the Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act which clearly indicate hazardous waste must be disposed of at a licensed hazardous waste disposal facility. Contravention of the Act is a an offence and liable on some convictions to a fine not exceeding $50,000.00. They may also include imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months.

With respect to companies going out of business, the government response to the situation will vary with individual cases. In some cases where there is no legal recourse to charge back costs, the Province may have to shoulder the cost of proper disposal.

Are the fines for violations of the Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act and Regulations high enough?

There is a maximum fine of $50,000.00 per offence per day.

Is the hazardous waste inventory misleading because it does not include air emissions such as sulphur dioxide or particulates? Why was the inventory not mandatory?

The information in the report is not misleading in that we have clearly stated that the data does not include air or SO_2 particulates, as they are not amenable, at this point in time, to treatment in a hazardous waste system. However, we are continuing to collect data and through a regulation that registers hazardous waste generators in the Province, we will in the future have accurate data with respect to total hazardous waste generation. Regulations are coming into force that will provide for the mandatory reporting of hazardous waste generated.

The survey was done on a voluntary basis because it was felt that this would result in more cooperation from companies and that more complete information would be obtained. The regulations which require the provision of this information were also not in effect at that time. This approach worked very well, with only 17 companies of a total of 428 refusing to provide an interview. There was a degree of interest shown in the Hazardous Waste Program.

Isn't it true that some communities have requested more detailed information on hazardous waste in their area so they can better participate in Clean Environment Commission hearings?

The Department has agreed to the request of some communities to detail currently available information on the hazardous wastes generated in their respective areas. It should be noted, however, that the data in the "Hazardous Waste Management in Manitoba" report was compiled as preliminary information and is considered adequate to make general decisions required in developing a comprehensive hazardous waste management system for Manitoba.

With regard to the implementation of Federal Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations, some changes are being made to the regulations. They are currently being revised and will be regazetted around February 1, 1986. Will these changes be taken into account in the training of staff and in enforcement of the regulations?

The changes to the regulations involve minor wording changes which do not significantly alter the intent of the regulation. However, both trainers and inspectors have been made aware of the changes and other updates.

What is the status of the Hazardous Waste Management Program?

The Hazardous and Special Waste Management Program is in Phase 1 awaiting Stage II of the Clean Environment Commission public hearings. Staff are currently preparing a departmental brief to be presented to the Clean Environment Commission public hearings in 1986.

Who will be responsible for the enforcement of the Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act? What kind of training will they have?

Enforcement people will consist of provincial staff from various government departments which currently have a role with respect to dangerous goods. Some municipal staff will also have similar roles. All of the training has been consolidated through the Brandon Fire College and consists of a week long inspector training course. There is also a schedule providing for the updating and retraining of all inspectors.

Will the Province levy fees to various sectors using the hazardous waste management system when it is in place?

Yes, fee structures will be established using the hazardous waste management system and will be based on the types of waste generated and the types of technology required to treat the waste. The fee structure will be applied uniformly to all sectors generating hazardous waste.

There should be increased emphasis on the occupational health and safety aspects of the regulations for people actually handling hazardous wastes.

Hazardous wastes are a component of dangerous goods and as such, fall under the mandate of Workplace Safety and Health Regulations as well as the regulations under the Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act. Provincial Regulation 172/85, which adopts the federal regulations, clearly indicates that all persons handling dangerous goods, which includes hazardous waste, must have proper training. Specific occupational health aspects will be addressed by the Workplace Safety and Health Division under the Workplace Health Regulation. Certain aspects of regulatory control such as registration, documentation and labelling are being coordinated between Environment and Workplace Safety and Health.

The Hazardous Waste Management Report shows the farming community to be one of the greatest producers of hazardous waste in the Province. What is the cost of the management system to farmers?

The Hazardous Waste Management in Manitoba Report does not indicate farming generates much of the hazardous waste produced in the Province. The largest segment of industry producing hazardous waste in the Province is of a chemical nature which may include the production of agricultural chemicals. However, this does not relate directly to the farmer generating hazardous waste. The total quantity of hazardous waste, in fact, does not include residue pesticides from materials used by farmers. The Department is currently assessing the costs of a comprehensive hazardous waste management system and will make them publicly available prior to the Clean Environment Commission public hearings.

Canadian Agricultural Chemicals Association has instituted a training program for all independent dealers and handlers, but this will really not be underway until February 1986. Will the Department enforce the Regulations on a "hardline" basis right from February 1, 1986?

The Department will commence its enforcement of the regulations on February 1st, 1986. However, we will pursue a phased-in enforcement program. Only in cases where there is willful and flagrant violations or imminent threat to the safety of the public or the environment charges will be laid.

Can the Department undertake an assessment of underground storage/ disposal of nuclear waste at Pinawa?

Research is taking place and will continue to take place on assessment of the behaviour of granite rock formations when subjected to the same stresses that would be experienced in a nuclear waste repository. This research is being done by A.E.C.L. Much of the impact of storage or disposal of nuclear waste will be on water. Monitoring of groundwater in the area is being undertaken.

The Department should undertake an independent review/scrutiny of A.E.C.L.'s research.

There is a tremendous amount of pressure to find a positive way to deal with nuclear wastes. It is in A.E.C.L.'s best interest to ensure all concerns are addressed in their research and to make the results available to the public. It would be very expensive for the department to undertake an independent review because it would mean the duplication of staff.

Shouldn't Manitoba be party to the agreement with the Province of Ontario and A.E.C.L.?

There are pros and cons to that. Ontario is the prime producer and user of nuclear energy. We are not and do not want to be considered as such.

What is the Department's view of A.E.C.L.'s joining with the U.S. re nuclear research?

We want to review the final proposal. The proposal would require the deepening of the shaft and carrying out the same research. It would not violate A.E.C.L.'s lease or the original intent of the research.

Nuclear Wastes (Atomic Energy of Canada Limited) **Environment**

Would Manitoba not be targetted to take wastes from other areas because the Province has a research facility?

A.E.C.L.'s lease requires that the site be left the way it was found. This will involve filling the shaft and cylinders.

We do not produce nuclear waste and there would be high costs associated with transporting it here. All evidence points to Ontario as being the recipient of a nuclear wastes repository.

Manitoba should still be concerned with the activities of the A.E.C.L. and monitor its activities very closely.

Monitoring is taking place and reseach is being done to determine the impact on soil and underground water. We also want to involve the public through a ministerial advisory committee.

Will the Government release its reports on Inco and HBM&S re reductions in SO_2 emissions?

The reports referred to are company reports submitted to the Government. They contain some information which the companies have asked us to keep confidential. However, much of the information will be presented to the Clean Environment Commission during their public review process.

All reports prepared by the Department for presentation to the Clean Environment Commission are considered to be public documents.

The integration of acid rain monitoring efforts with other provinces is commendable. Will the Department consider doing spring snowmelt sampling to see if some areas of the Province are getting an overabundance of acid rain?

The Environmental Management Division is pleased with the cooperative activities which are being carried out with the western provinces. Among these activities, the joint project to evaluate target loading for sulphate deposition in Western Canada is very important. So far, control strategies have been based on target loading derived for Eastern Canada. However, these may not be applicable in Western Canada, where the sulphate depositions are much lower.

The development of acid sensitivity maps for the aquatic and terrestrial environments are also important undertakings which will be useful to develop a Western Canada control strategy related to LRTAP (Long Range Transport of Air Pollutants).

The Province is currently active in snowpack surveys to determine the acidity of snow. Snowmelt runoff could be assessed insofar as acidity is concerned, however, it would require a considerable commitment of resources. This effort does not seem worthwhile at the present time since the snowpack monitoring has not to date revealed acidic snow which could indicate a possible concern for acid-shock in Manitoba.

What types of organic analyses are done at the Technical Services Laboratory?

The major types of organic analyses are for organochlorine and organophosphate pesticides, some 20-30 of the common herbicides, PCB's, gasolines, oils, alcohols and the common workplace solvents such as acetone and benzene. In addition, work has begun on the United States Environmental Protection Agency priority pollutant list and analyses for polyaromatic hydrocarbons and haloforms are expected to be on-stream shortly.

What are the check samples that we exchange with other labs?

As of December 1985, the Quality Assurance Check Sample Programs were: (see list of following pages)

QUALITY ASSURANCE CHECK SAMPLE PROGRAMS
(as of December 1985)

Canadian Agencies:

FICP

Federal Interdepartmental Committee on Pesticides
Laboratory Services Division
Building #22, C.E.F.
Agriculture Canada
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0C6

Contact: Mr. R.B. Maybury, Chairman, FICP
Phone: (613) 995-4907

Parameters: PCB, herbicides and pesticides
Matrix: water, soil, vegetation and biologicals
Frequency: variable

FWI

Freshwater Institute
501 University Crescent
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3T 2N6

Contact: Marilyn Henzell
Phone: (204) 949-5067

Parameters: mercury
Matrix: fish
Frequency: 3/year

IRQA

Inter-Regional Quality Assurance Program
Canada Centre for Inland Waters
P.O. Box 5050
667 Lakeshore Road
Burlington, Ontario
L7R 4A6

Contact: Harry Alkema
Phone: (416) 637-4745

Parameters: nutrients, metals and major
Matrix: water
Frequency: 6/year

Canadian Agencies:

LRTAP

Long Range Transport of Air Pollutants
National Water Research Institute
P.O. Box 5050
867 Lakeshore Road
Burlington, Ontario
L7R 4A6

Contact: Geeta Dookhran
Phone: (416) 336-4936

Parameters: nutrients, metals and major
Matrix: water--precipitation
Frequency: 2-3/year

QUEBEC

Le Centre Hospitalier de l'Universite Laval
2705, Boul. Laurier
Quebec, Quebec
G1V 4G2

Contact: Dr. Jean-Philippe Weber
Phone: (418) 656-8092

Parameters: lead, arsenic and mercury
Matrix: blood and urine
Frequency: 6/year

SPEX

SCP
777 Lajoie
Dorval, Quebec
H9P 1G7

Phone: (514) 631-1421

Parameter: metals
Matrix: water--dilute acid
Frequency: as required

American Agencies

Analabs

Analabs
80 Republic Drive
North Haven, CT 06473

Phone: (203) 288-8463

Parameter: PAH
Matrix: pures
Frequencies: as required

CDC

Center for Environmental Health
Center for Disease Control
Atlanta, GA 30333

Contact: James Simpson
Phone: (404) 452-4191

Parameter: lead
Matrix: blood
Frequency: 12/year

EPA

Quality Assurance Branch
Room 525
Environmental Monitoring and Support Laboratory
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Cincinnati, Ohio 45268

Parameters: nutrients, metals, PAH, pesticides, PCB, oil and grease, cyanide, major, organics and algae
Matrix: water--surface, ground, waste, precipitation; biologicals; air; oil; solvent and dilute acid
Frequency: as required

EPA

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Research Triangle Park
Building 5
P.O. Box 12194
Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27709-2194

Contact: Ellen W. Streib
Phone: (919) 541-7834

Parameter: sulphur dioxide mist
Matrix: air--stack gas
Frequency: 2/year

American Agencies:

EPA

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Research Triangle Park
Building 5
P.O. Box 12194
Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27709-2194

Contact: Blaine F. Parr
Phone: (919) 541-4587

Parameters: sulphate, nitrate
Matrix: air--glass fiber filter
Frequency: 2/year

EPA-RTP

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Research Triangle Park
Building 5
P.O. Box 12194
Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27709-2194

Contact: Melvin L. Parris
Phone: (919) 514-5945

Parameter: bulk asbestos
Matrix: man-made and pures
Frequency: 2/year

KAULSON

Kaulson Laboratories, Inc.
691 Bloomfield Avenue, West
Caldwell, NJ 07006

Phone: (201) 226-9494

Parameters: lead, cadmium, arsenic and mercury
Matrix: blood and urine
Frequency: as required

American Agencies:

NBS

Office of Standard Reference Materials
Room B311, Chemistry Building
National Bureau of Standards
Washington, D.C. 20234

Phone: (301) 921-2045

Parameters: metals, major, silica, asbestos, PA, asbestos
Matrix: biologicals, sediments, air, vegetation, pures and water--precipitation
Frequency: as required

NIOSH-PAT

National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety
Proficiency Analytical Testing Program
Centers for Disease Control
4676 Columbia Parkway
Cincinnati, Ohio 45226

Phone: (513) 841-4357

Parameters: lead, cadmium, zinc, silica, asbestos and solvents
Matrix: air--filter, charcoal tube, silica gel
Frequency: 4/year

USGS

U.S. Geological Survey
National Water Quality Laboratory
Water Resources Division
5293 Ward Road
Arvada, Colorado 80002

Contact: Victor J. Janzer
Phone: (303) 236-1924

Parameters: nutrients, metals
Matrix: water--precipitation
Frequency: 1/year

Other Agencies:

BEHRING Behring Werke Aktiengesellscraft
Postfach 1140
D-3550 Marburgi
Frankfurt, Germany

Parameters: lead, cadmium, mercury
Matrix: blood
Frequency: as required

IAEA International Atomic Energy Agency
Analytical Quality Control Services
P.O. Box 100
A-1400 Vienna, Austria

Parameter: metals
Matrix: biological
Frequency: as required

IAEA International Atomic Energy Agency
Analytical Quality Control Services
P.O. 100
A-1400 Vienna, Austria

Parameter: metals
Matrix: soil, sediment and fish
Frequency: variable

WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH

ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Is the Department looking at providing compensation to those workers who are prevented from working because their employers have violated the Act?

The Division is investigating the feasibility of not having workers suffer financial penalties resulting from stop work orders and from employer violations under the Workplace Safety and Health Act. The Advisory Council on Workplace Safety and Health has studied the issue and made recommendations on a wage protection plan.

What is the Department doing to prevent another fatality similar to the one that occurred at Monarch Metals in North Point Douglas?

There are two issues involved in the Monarch Metals fatality: one concerns the safety of handlers of containers which have stored toxic, flammable or explosive substances, and the second deals with safety in the schools. To emphasize safety procedures for container handling, the Division has produced a safety bulletin and specific guidelines for working on such containers. This has been published in Worksafe, and there will be a direct mail-out to identified industries. With regard to safety in the schools, the Division has committed to jointly pursuing the issue with the Department of Education. Initiatives have been taken by the Department of Education to strengthen accident prevention in the schools.

Concern expressed that employers are being given an unfair burden of responsibility re safety and health. What about individuals' responsibility?

The Workplace Safety and Health Act clearly indicates the responsibilities of workers. These include the responsibility to take reasonable care to protect the safety and health of themselves and others who may be affected by their acts or omissions at work; the responsibility to use all devices and wear all articles of clothing and personal protective equipment required by legislation or designated and provided by the employer; the responsibility to consult and cooperate with the Workplace Safety and Health Committee or representative; the responsibility to comply with the Act and its regulations; and the responsibility to cooperate with any person exercising a duty imposed by the legislation.

The onus of responsibility for safety and health remains, however, on the employer.

Concern was expressed that material safety data sheets are of little value to medical practitioners.

This is a concern shared by many who use them. As a result, the provinces have asked the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System to develop uniform standards.

Concern was expressed about the lack of enforcement by the Division.

There is an historical foundation for this concern: the early record of the Workplace Safety and Health Division in enforcement was lacking and did little to foster compliance with the Act and regulations. Concern about lack of enforcement was felt by the Division, and we have undertaken to improve our record as resources have become available. Enforcement by the Division has vastly improved, and we intend to continue these improvements and to maintain a high level of enforcement. Over the last six months, there has been a dramatic increase in prosecutions and a definite emphasis on stricter compliance with the Workplace Safety and Health Act and regulations.

Concern was expressed that many of the regulations are taking too long to be adopted into law.

The process is indeed often a lengthy one. Our goal is the development and implementation of regulations that result in safer and healthier workplaces and that are workable from all perspectives. The regulation development process in place in the Department is such that it allows participants an opportunity to review and comment on proposed regulations. All comments and concerns received are carefully reviewed and regulations are redrafted. We have seen that the most effective regulations develop from such a joint consultation process.

What is the status of the Asbestos Regulation?

Provisions from the draft Asbestos Regulation are being incorporated in the Workplace Health Regulation. The development of a specific Code of Practice for Asbestos under the Workplace Health Regulation is simultaneously proceeding. In the interim, the principles are being used by Safety and Health Officers in the field to provide worker protection.

Why was the Construction Camp Regulation dropped?

The Construction Camp Regulation was dropped because it exceeds the legal authority conferred by the Workplace Safety and Health Act. The Department's Regulation Development Committee referred the regulation to the Department of Health for review by Health and Environment Review Committee (HERC) (a joint committee of the Department of Environment and Workplace Safety and Health and the Department of Health).

What is the status of the First Aid Regulation?

The redrafting of the First Aid Regulation has been treated as a low priority because the Department has an existing first aid regulation. The Division is working jointly with Alberta to develop concepts for a first aid regulation that goes beyond the traditional "count-the-bandage" type of regulation.

The Workplace Health Regulation is taking a very long time to implement.

This is a very comprehensive and complex regulation that will affect a variety of workplaces across the province. It is the first one in this area in Manitoba, and the future of other regulations, such as asbestos and lead, depends upon the successful implementation of the Workplace Health Regulation. For these reasons, the Department is taking the necessary steps to ensure that start-up problems are minimized.

What are the oustanding issues of concern re the Workplace Health Regulation?

At the time of the November 1985 Ministerial Consultation Meetings, the Division was working toward resolution of all or portions of the following outstanding issues regarding the Workplace Health Regulation:

- Compatibility, implementation and other issues concerning national standards from the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS);
- Inventory and hazardous materials lists;
- Lists and criteria for designated materials;
- Occupational exposure limits;
- Environmental monitoring;
- Health monitoring;
- Records;
- Information to the Division;
- Implementation (benefit-cost and small business effects); and
- Legal.

We expect the majority of these outstanding issues will be resolved shortly, and that a very few (such as criteria for designated materials and environmental monitoring by an observer) may require further effort to clarify.

Will the Workplace Health Regulation be similar to the Dangerous Goods Program, i.e. two levels of legislation--federal and provincial?

In one sense, there will be two levels of workplace health legislation, one federal and one provincial, but this can be a misleading statement. No workplace in Manitoba will be regulated by both federal and provincial legislation.

Generally speaking, health in the workplace is a provincial concern, and the vast majority of workplaces in Manitoba will come under the Workplace Health Regulation. The exceptions to this are international and interprovincial enterprises in the Province that are under the jurisdiction of the federal government. Example are: railways, airlines, banks, uranium mines and federal Crown Corporations. Health matters in these enterprises are regulated by Part IV of the Canada Labour Code.

What could appear on first glance to be a complex and divisive situation, in fact, can involve a fair degree of federal-provincial support and cooperation. An example is the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS), a national standard developed by the federal government in consultation with provincial governments, which is utilized in the Workplace Health Regulation.

Will the Division have sufficient resources to effectively implement the Workplace Health Regulation?

We feel that we will have the staff to effectively implement the Regulation. Concurrent to the development of the Workplace Health Regulation, the Division is looking at the resources that will be required and an implementation strategy for utilizing the required resources in the most effective and efficient manner.

Will the Workplace Safety and Health Division assist small workplaces with the implementation of the Workplace Health Regulation?

The implementation of the Workplace Health Regulation poses a potential problem for small workplaces. They often do not have the expertise internally, and resources are sometimes hard to obtain. As a result, extra effort is being spent by the Division in this area, including a study to assess the impact of the regulation on small workplaces. We are also looking toward strengthening the support function within the Division to help all workplaces comply with the Workplace Health Regulation.

How will the Workplace Health Regulation and Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System protect trade secrets and confidential information?

The Workplace Health Regulation is based on the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System, which contains provisions to ensure that confidential information is protected. These include protection of trade secrets of suppliers by a single national process. This national process ensures interprovincial compliance, reduces administrative burdens for suppliers seeking to protect confidential information, and maintains uniform confidentiality from province-to-province.

What is the status of the Lead Regulation?

The regulation is currently inactive because the issue of lead exposure in the workplace is being addressed, as well as other hazardous materials in the workplace, by the Workplace Health Regulation. Consideration is being given to providing specific guidance concerning occupational lead exposure in a code of practice under the Workplace Health Regulation.

There is concern that a Code of Practice for Lead is insufficient because a Code of Practice cannot stand up in a court of law.

The issuance of codes of practice and other provisions concerning their admissibility as evidence are contained in the Workplace Safety and Health Act. The question as to whether a code of practice is legally binding has not been addressed by the courts to date. In a situation requiring legal action, the Divison would act with respect to the regulation to which the code of practice is attached, and this regulation has legal force under the Act.

How is the Noise Regulation being enforced as it relates to the Construction Industry?

The Noise Regulation is being enforced in specific instances where there is recognized noise exposure. Additionally, the Division is undertaking an examination of noise exposure in the construction industry prior to the development of an enforcement policy.

There is concern about the Attorney-General's reluctance to prosecute cases under the Workplace Safety and Health Act.

The Department is taking steps in this area to try to resolve this problem. We have done a study on prosecutions in other jurisdictions. We have appointed a liaison officer directly in the Division for prosecution purposes. We had a two day prosecutions and investigations course for all divisional staff in the fall of 1985.

Discussions with the Attorney-General are ongoing. We have reaffirmed to the Attorney-General the seriousness of workplace safety and health matters, and our need to have the Act and regulations enforced firmly and consistently. The evidence of recent history indicates the situation is changing. Over the last six months, there has been a dramatic increase in prosecutions and definite emphasis on stricter compliance with the act and regulations.

Why is there no public notification of prosecutions?

Prosecutions under the Workplace Safety and Health Act and regulations are usually mentioned by the media (newspapers, radio, TV). To supplement this, the Division will begin to publish notification of prosecutions with the Winter 1986 issue of Worksafe.

Division needs to offer more sophisticated/advanced level of training for people who have already taken the basic training.

The two day, Level I Workplace Safety and Health Educational Course presently offered by the Division is designed to accommodate the mandatory 16-hour educational provisions of the Workplace Safety and Health Act. An expansion in the level of staffing in the Division's Educational Services Branch will allow the development of more advanced training programs. At present, the Branch anticipates a Level II course will be available in the Fall 1986, and a Level III course should be operational by 1987.

In addition to the Level I course presently offered, the Educational Services Branch also provides custom courses, developed and offered as required at the request of both industry and labour. These include seminars on: supervisory/management responsibilities, in-plant programming, workplace safety audits, injured workers accident investigations, entry into confined spaces, plant inspections, hearing conservation and tight building syndrome. The Industrial Hygiene Branch also provides educational support on specific workplace issues such as tight building syndrome. The Division has provided courses tailored to specific sectors such as the construction industry and school districts.

Concern has been expressed that management often will offer only the basics in Workplace Safety and Health training.

In a case where workers and management, through their joint representation on the Workplace Safety and Health Committee cannot reach consensus on the content and level of educational information provided in the workplace, the Committee may recommend the courses offered by the Division. This assistance is ancillary to the role of Safety and Health Committees in educating new or transferred workers, an important committee function.

Concern has been expressed that some large workplaces are misleading their workers re Workplace Safety and Health Education packages.

If a Safety and Health Committee or an employee perceives misrepresentation in this regard, the Division's Educational Services Branch should be contacted and a meeting set up with the committee, workers and management to outline the educational services offered by the Division. The Division is not the only provider of these types of courses. The Manitoba Federation of Labour has also been named as one of the providers of courses. We will assist various organizations that are providing courses.

Concern expressed over the lack of demand for mandatory educational leave.

Over the past year, demand for mandatory educational leave was lighter than we would have anticipated. The main reason for this was that the formation of new committees is in the developmental stage. During the fall and winter of 1985, we saw an increase in the demand for mandatory educational leave.

Divisional staff are in contact with various workplaces and Safety and Health Committees as a result of the inspection process and the monitoring of committee minutes. In those cases where there is lack of demand for mandatory education, this should be stated in the committee minutes or the Safety and Health Officer should be informed so the Division can address it.

Has there been an increase in staff levels in the Workplace Safety and Health Division over the past year?

Staffing levels in the Division have recently increased. At the time of the Consultation Meetings, the Division had seven additional positions--three in inspections, one in education, two clerical and one in the occupational health area.

A full time Safety and Health Officer should be devoted to the construction industry, similar to a Saskatchewan program.

A number of the Safety and Health Officers of the Division concentrate their efforts specifically on the construction industry.

The Division has undertaken to investigate Saskatchewan's program in consultation with the Winnipeg Construction Association. Discussions will be held to determine the form, function and significant aspects of the Saskatchewan program.

Concern was expressed that new Workplace Safety and Health Inspectors should have both technical and practical training.

Safety and Health Officers are hired based on a combination of educational background and field experience. Safety and Health Officers are encouraged to take the University of Manitoba Certificate Program, and arrangements are made by the Division for this. Additionally, there is considerable sharing of knowledge and experience among Safety and Health Officers with the resultant opportunity for development of expertise.

Concern was expressed about the lack of a system in the Division to monitor Safety and Health Committees.

A system to monitor Safety and Health Committees is being developed at the present time. Committee minutes are being listed on computers. This will enable the Division to track which committees are meeting, frequency of meetings and other pertinent information.

Concern was expressed that there is a need for the Division to ensure that Safety and Health Committees are properly constituted.

Upon review of committee minutes by the Division, every effort is made by Safety and Health Officers to ensure that the committees are properly constituted and meet as required by the Act.

Will the Occupational Health Nurses have an opportunity for input into the Occupational Health Services Study?

The Occupational Health Nurses are represented on the Occupational Health Services Study Ad Hoc Advisory Committee by Ms. Beverly Cann. The Study Director, Ms. Dilys Robertson, is also planning, with the help of Ms. Cann, to undertake a survey of Occupational Health Nurses in the Province. Finally, Ms. Robertson is planning to hold a number of "workshop sessions" where interested parties, groups, agencies, individuals etc. will be invited to participate.

Will Labour have an opportunity for input into the Occupational Health Services Study?

The Manitoba Federation of Labour is represented on the Occupational Health Services Study Ad Hoc Advisory Committee by Ms. Marg Day. Through Ms. Day, the MFL and its affiliates will be able to input to the Study. Ms. Robertson is planning to hold a series of "workshop sessions". Interested parties, groups, individuals etc. will be invited to participate at these sessions and to submit briefs, as well, if they so desire.

Who is on the Occupational Health Services Study Advisory Committee?

The Occupational Health Services Study Ad Hoc Advisory Committee is made up of the following members:

Ms. Dilys Robertson, Study Director
Dr. E. Mastromatteo, Senior Reviewer/Resource Person
Dr. J. Weeks, Occupational Health Physician
Ms. Bev Cann, Occupational Health Nurse
Mr. B. MacQuarrie, Industrial Hygienist
Mr. C. Cutler, Representative of Canadian Manufacturers Association
Ms. M. Day, Representative of Manitoba Federation of Labour
Mr. W. Ward, Represenative of the Workplace Safety and Health Advisory Council

Mr. Jerry Spiegel, the Director of Planning, Research and Evaluation, is serving as an ex officio, non-voting member of the committee. He is a liaison person for the Department.

What role does Dr. Mastromatteo have in the Occupational Health Services Study?

Dr. Ernest Mastromatteo is serving on a part-time, contract basis as the Senior Reviewer/Resource Person for the Occupational Health Services Study. In this capacity, Dr. Mastromatteo will provide his experience and expertise in the area of occupational health.

WORKER ADVISOR OFFICE

ISSUES AND CONCERNS

What is being done in the Worker Advisor Office about the backlog of cases?

The office is still overloaded. The seven Worker Advisor trainees have helped to catch up on the backlog of cases that existed. The Department is planning to extend the Worker Advisor Trainee Program but on a reduced basis.

Why were not other groups in the labour movement contacted to train as Worker Advisors?

The Worker Advisor Trainee Program was financed through funding which belonged to the M.G.E.A. It had been indicated that the spending of these funds would be done through consultations with the M.G.E.A. and the M.F.L. Some of the Worker Advisor Trainees were from the Manitoba Association of Nurses and the Building Trades Association.

WORKERS COMPENSATION BOARD

ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Is the mandate of the Workers Compensation Legislative Review Committee broad enough to consider alternatives to the present Workers Compensation system?

The Legislative Review Committee has been given a very broad mandate to:

a) review the Workers Compensation Act and identify those areas where legislative action is required to provide a more equitable and efficient system to workers, employers and the community as a whole;

b) review policies and directives of the Workers Compensation Board and discuss any of these matters with the Board of Commissioners and other staff members of the Board;

c) invite participation of interest groups by public hearings, submission of briefs, and in camera discussions;

d) review relevant legislation in other provincial jurisdictions;

e) establish and forward to the Minister, comprehensive evaluations and recommendations on suggested improvements to the Workers Compensation Act within a period of eighteen months.

Will the mandate of the Legislative Review Committee include the study of a merit rebate system?

The Legislative Review Committee will be evaluating this matter. As well, the Board of Commissioners is conducting a feasibility study to determine if a viable experience rating program can be implemented. Both industry and labour will be fully consulted prior to the introduction of an experience rating program.

Is the Department considering legislation which gives workers the right to return if they are able to return?

There is nothing in the Workers Compensation Act or any other legislation which compels an employer to rehire a former worker that was injured. Quebec is the only jurisdiction at present that requires this. The Workers Compensation Review Committee will be addressing this issue in their review.

Is the Workers Compensation Board Rehabilitation Department functioning in an appropriate manner?

Given that it is a relatively new service of the Workers Compensation Board, there are some growing pains. The thrust of the Rehabilitation Department is to return a worker to meaningful employment as quickly as possible following recovery from the acute phase of an injury. Both the government and the Workers Compensation Board are soliciting the support of the business and industry sectors to provide suitable employment for an injured worker following recovery from a compensable injury.

Are injured workers being promptly returned to work following recovery from an injury?

One of the most cost effective and humane approaches to workers compensation is to return an injured worker to suitable and appropriate employment as quickly as possible following an injury. This is a target goal of the Workers Compensation Board and their Rehabilitation Department. Both the government and the Workers Compensation Board are soliciting the support of the business and industry sectors to provide meaningful employment for an injured worker following recovery from the acute phase of an injury.

Is the Rehabilitation Program utilized by the City of Winnipeg equitable and effective?

In December 1985, a meeting was held between the Workers Compensation Board Rehabilitation Department and the City of Winnipeg to explore better ways and means of accommodating injured workers into appropriate employment. The City of Winnipeg is currently reviewing their program with a view to providing suitable work for employees who cannot return to their pre-accident employment due to compensable disabilities.

There should be an additional penalty in cases of employer negligence or gross negligence.

Improved computer service and enhanced information sharing will lead to specific identification of problem areas. The initial approach should include a review of the efficiency of the Safety and Health Committee. In the absence of improvement, a penalty levy may well be considered in cases where the employer has refused to cooperate in implementing measures to ensure a safe workplace.

Is the rule of presumption giving benefit of doubt to the worker being applied in the spirit of the Workers Compensation Act?

The rule of presumption has been contained in the Manitoba Act for decades as it has in almost all other Acts across Canada. In cases where reasonable doubt exists, the benefit of the doubt should be resolved in favour of the injured worker. In individual situations where workers feel the rule of presumption has not been applied, a structured appeal process has been established, leading ultimately to a hearing before the Board of Commissioners.

Are differences in opinion between the worker's doctor and the Workers Compensation Board doctor being resolved in an appropriate and reasonable manner?

In claims involving a difference in medical opinion, wherever possible, the difference may be resolved by open communication between the doctors involved. In cases where the difference of opinion cannot be resolved, the claim may be referred to an independent Medical Review Panel under Section 54.1(4) of the Act. Lists of specialists who are able to act on the Panels can be provided on request, but rather than restrict the selection process, any doctor in Manitoba recognized as a specialist in the field of discipline of the medical matter to be considered may serve on the panel.

What can be done about Workers Compensation Board staff with attitudinal problems?

Meetings between the Board of Commissioners and labour and industry sectors take place on a regular basis. Problems with staff attitude may be brought directly to the attention of the Board of Commissioners.

Has the Workers Compensation Board discontinued its long standing practice of sending injured workers, who had been paid by their employers, statements of benefits for income tax purposes?

In June 1984, Revenue Canada questioned the Workers Compensation Board as to why they were continuing the practice of providing income tax statements to claimants who had been paid by their employers.

In view of this, the Workers Compensation Board altered their practice of advising workers they could deduct the compensation which would have been normally payable from their income tax.

Subsequently, the Federal Government changed its original position and now view compensation paid by the Workers Compensation Board not to be taxable.

Accordingly, the Workers Compensation Board has now re-implemented its policy of automatically providing workers, who have been paid by their employers, with statements which they may use for income tax purposes.

Has the Workers Compensation Board established a policy for adjudicating claims for workers with pre-existing conditions?

The Board has recently established a policy in line with Sections 34.1(1), 34.1(2) and 34.1(3) of the Workers Compensation Act. Essentially, the thrust of the policy is to ensure a recognition of a pre-existing condition where there is a relationship between the accident and the pre-existing condition, and to ensure the claimant received appropriate medical and vocational rehabilitation until the worker can resume employment.

Are minutes of the Board meetings published and circulated?

The Board has been publishing and circulating their minutes since 1982. The Manitoba Board is the only Board in North America that publishes minutes.

There appear to be problems in establishing Workers Compensation Board claims for asbestosis, including the types of cancer associated with asbestosis.

The Board has a criteria covering claims for industrial asbestosis. In some instances, it is difficult to diagnose the condition without a biopsy. Claims for asbestosis, where there has been industrial exposure, would be processed through the Special Claims Unit.

Are there any printed guidelines regarding first aid?

Section 24(14) of the Workers Compensation Act states:

"Employers in any industries in which it is deemed proper may be required by the Board to maintain such first aid appliances and services as the Board may direct; and the Board may make such order respecting the expense thereof as may be deemed just."

Does the Department have any plans to identify and monitor workplaces with high accident ratios?

There is now a computerized information sharing process between the Workers Compensation Board and Workplace Safety and Health ensuring the unsafe workplaces will be addressed in a more comprehensive manner. Where any workplace has been identified as having an excessive amount of accidents, Workplace Safety and Health will take steps to implement appropriate safety measures and extend every possible effort to make certain the workplace is as safe and hazard-free as possible.

LIST OF PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

Building Trades Council
Canadian Agriculture Chemicals Association
Canadian Association of Industrial, Mechanical and Allied Workers
Canadian Labour Congress
Canadian Manufacturers Association
Canadian Society of Safety Engineers
Clean Environment Commission
Injured Workers Association of Manitoba Inc.
Keystone Agricultural Producers
Manitoba Association of Registered Nurses
Manitoba Association of Urban Municipalities
Manitoba Environmental Council
Manitoba Federation of Labour
Manitoba Forestry Association
Manitoba Heavy Construction Association
Manitoba Medical Association
Manitoba Naturalist Society
Manitoba Parks and Recreation Association
Manitoba Safety Council
Manitoba Wildlife Federation
Mining Association of Manitoba
Occupational Health Nurses Interest Group
Pesticide Research Laboratory - University of Manitoba
St. John Ambulance
School of Nursing, University of Manitoba
Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce
Winnipeg Construction Association
Workplace Safety and Health Advisory Council